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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES  
COOPERATING



STATES RELATIONS SERVICE  
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK NORTH AND WEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

## THIS LOOKS GOOD

### PLAY AS A BASIS OF CONFIDENCE.

Playing together often brings out those human qualities that are the real basis of confidence. There can be no cooperation that is not based on confidence. Confidence in turn is a result of acquaintance and understanding and faith. County agent work in Montana has been based on the soundness of the above psychology. In common with conditions in many western States, the population is sparse and less stable than in the middle western or eastern States and it is therefore more difficult to bring about "community" effort.

For several years the Montana county agents have laid great stress on the community picnic as a means of getting people acquainted with each other, breaking down reserve, restraint and timidity, curing offishness and establishing team work. During last year twenty-two counties held one hundred thirty-nine community picnics with an attendance of over 29,000. In speaking of these County Agent Leader Wilson says:

"At first attendance was somewhat small and included mostly members, but during the past year not only members but non-members as well have attended so that most of the farm men, women and children have taken part in the picnics, which cannot be over-emphasized as a medium of bringing people together, and for them to become better acquainted with one another. The picnic has been the forerunner of organized project work in the communities. It establishes community interest and a community consciousness that is so essential as the basis of other community activities. Experience in Montana points out the necessity for some kind of social activity to break the crust of isolation and lack of social contact. The organization, management and arrangement for picnics, dinners, recreational stunts has been in charge almost wholly of leaders in the communities selected for this purpose. The general plan has been for county extension workers to meet with the community chairmen and a small group of leaders at which all arrangements were planned in detail and written out. The chairman assigned particular duties to individuals and appointed committees to choose and lay out picnic grounds, com-

mittee for arranging a dinner, committee on sports, etc. This was all the responsibility that the county extension workers had to take in the arrangements. The community picnic is now looked upon as a permanent feature of county extension work."

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